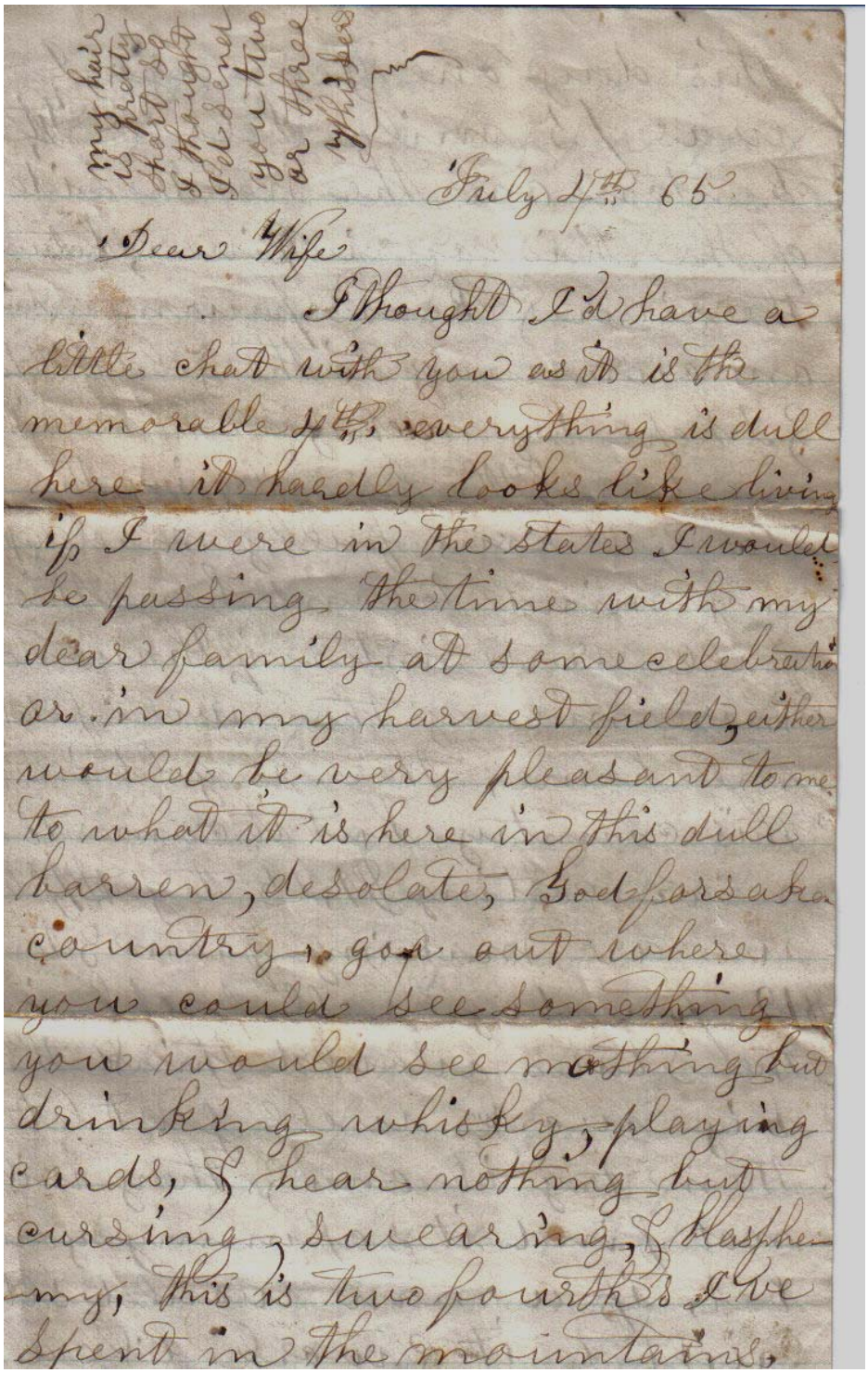

my hair is pretty short so I thought I'd send you two or three whiskers

July 4th 65

Dear Wife

I thought I'd have a little chat with you as it is the memorable 4th, everything is dull here it hardly looks like living if I were in the States I would be passing the time with my dear family at some celebration or in my harvest field either would be very pleasant to me to what it is here in this dull barren, desolate, God forsaken country, go out where you could see something you would see nothing but drinking whiskey, playing cards, & hear nothing but cursing, swearing, & blasphemy, this is two fourths I've spent in the mountains.

Last letter home as enroute back to Ohio he dies in Omaha, Nebraska October, 1865

This day one year ago I was 15 miles below Ft Benton on the north side of the Missouri River, betwee the river & Bears paw mountain on our way to the gold fields & I hope by next year to be with my dear little family in the States, I have fully made up my mind to come home this fall or winter if I have no more money than will fetch me home, there is gold in this country but it comes to near costing $1,25 to get $1,00 we are making from 8 to $12 per day, well people in the States would think that big work, well just let them try it on, & they will not find it so funny you bet, if a man would set right to it & work like a

nigger, live like a dog &
sleep alike a hog for 4 or 5
years they would make a
little a head, & in that time
they would be broke down
& not hardly fit to live in
a civilized community.
for my part I can come home
& make a good living, enjoy
the comforts of a sweet little family
meet with Gods children &
live happy, & not work but
half as hard as I do in this
country, you may think this
is coming down pretty hard
on the country but it is what
every man would say that
thinks anything of a good home
& a kind family. I suppose
this country gold was put here
for our good but it looks
to me that the country was
allowed for nothing but

the red Skins & French Squaw
buckers. I have claims in the
gulch that I believe ther is any
amount of money in them
but it will cost at the least
calculation four thousand
dollars to open them & that is
more money than I ever
expect to have. I will work
on the bar till in the fall
& if I cannot sell my interest
in this country I can leave
them, I think mining is the
hardest, meanest, most dispisable
work ever I tried, although
there are plenty men that have
done nothing else for 15 to 18
years, & will die in the mines
& be as poor as myself, Well Sade
sweet little Sade the Sade I love
& the good little Sade I left my heart
with you may think I my out of
humor with this country but I
am a good humor & I just curate
my thoughts. I've had good health
the last days or five my back is hurting
me pretty bad, I hope these few
lines may find you & emma
& All enjoying the best of health
bless your sweet Souls but
I'd like to see you,

From Yours ughs
Dodd until death
to S. S. E. M. & M. M. M. Morris &